

# Refuge of Oppression.

THE UNION FEELING IN THE SOUTH.  
LETTER  
From the Hon. J. R. Poinsett, on the Great Question  
of the Day.

CHARLESTON, (S. C.) Dec. 4, 1850.

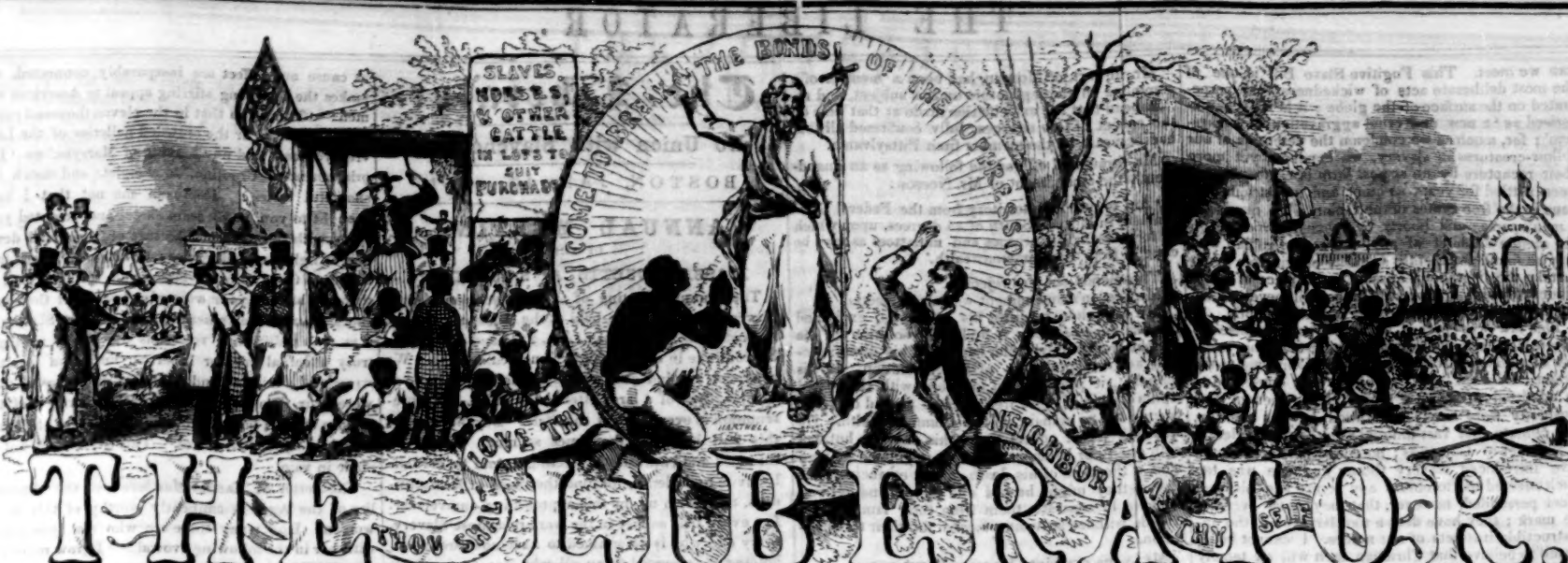
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# THE LIBERATOR.

OUR COUNTRY IS THE WORLD—OUR COUNTRYMEN ARE ALL MANKIND.  
BOSTON, MASS., FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1851.  
WHOLE NO. 1044

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## NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS!

THE U. S. CONSTITUTION—A COVENANT WITH DEATH  
AND AN AGREEMENT WITH HELL!

Yes! it cannot be denied, the slaveholding  
lords of the South, as a condition of their  
assent to the Constitution, three special provisions to  
secure the perpetuity of their dominion over their  
slaves. The first was the immunity, for twenty years,  
of preserving the African slave trade; the second was  
the stipulation to surrender fugitive slaves—an en-  
gagement positively prohibited by the laws of God,  
delivered from Sinai; and, thirdly, the exaction, fatal  
to the principles of popular representation, of a repre-  
sentation for slaves—for articles of merchandise, under  
the name of persons. To call government thus con-  
stituted a democracy, is to insult the understanding  
of mankind. It is doubly tainted with the infection  
of riches and slavery. Its reciprocal operation upon  
the government of the nation is to establish an artificial  
majority in the slave representation over that of the  
free people, in the American Congress, and thereby  
to make the PRESERVATION, PROPAGATION  
AND PERPETUATION OF SLAVERY THE VIT-  
AL AND ANIMATING SPIRIT OF THE NA-  
TIONAL GOVERNMENT.—JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

J. B. YERRINTON & SON, PRINTERS.

WHOLE NO. 1044

## Selections.

From the Glasgow (Scottish) Press.

### AMERICAN SLAVE EMANCIPATION AND BRITISH POLITICAL REFORM.

On Tuesday evening, a public meeting of the  
working classes and others in this city, friendly to  
the emancipation of American slaves, and a just  
measure of political reform in the British House of  
Commons, was held in the City Hall, Candlemas  
street, to adopt resolutions against the infamous  
Fugitive Slave Bill recently enacted in America;  
and in favor of political reforms in this country.  
The following gentlemen occupied the platform:  
James Turner, Esq., of Thrusfield; Robert Simp-  
son, Esq., Win. Smith, Esq., Andrew Paton, Esq.,  
Andrew Inglis, lat. manufacturer; Messrs. Malcolm  
McFarlane, Thomas Brown, James Rattray, Mat-  
thew Cullen, James Hoey, James Wilkinson, John  
Stevenson, — Cooper, Alex. Simpson, Andrew  
Cortay, a person of color, &c., &c.

The motion of Mr. A. Simpson, Mr. Andrew  
Cullen, was carried by acclamation.  
The Chairman, in a clear and effective speech,  
stated the objects for which the meeting had been  
convened, and which, he said, had been wholly  
got by working men, to afford their fellow work-  
men of this city an opportunity of expressing their  
sympathy with the oppressed, wherever they were;  
and was happy to see, from the numerous attendance  
before him, that the efforts were appreciated, and  
that oppression or the oppressor found no sympathy  
in their bosoms.

Mr. Malcolm McFarlane then came forward amid  
loud cheering, and proposed the first resolution, which  
denounced slavery as subversive of the most obvi-  
ous principles of reason, justice, and religion, and  
calling upon America to grant immediate emancipa-  
tion to the three million slaves she holds in cruel  
bondage. He enforced the sentiments of the resolu-  
tion in a forcible and argumentative and feeling  
address, which was listened to with marked at-  
tention, and elicited frequent and prolonged applause.

Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, which was  
carried by a unanimous shout of hands.  
Mr. Thompson then proposed the second resolu-  
tion, which repudiated the unchristian and degrading  
doctrine that man should hold property in man, and  
denounced the Fugitive Slave Bill as a flagrant in-  
sult on humanity, and not binding on the conscience  
of any good citizen. He enforced his motion in an elo-  
quent and thrilling speech, which made a deep im-  
pression on the audience, and met with frequent  
manifestations of approval. He then read a  
few remarks as to the nature and effects of slavery,  
and proceeded as follows:—I shall, sir, with your  
permission, read a few of the most atrocious clauses  
of this Fugitive Slave Bill, so that you may judge  
for yourselves whether the men who framed it, or  
the men who sanctioned it, had any real desire to let  
the oppressed go free. And will it be believed that  
the defenders of such a bill, the supporters of a  
system which consigns to a felon's doom the man  
who is humane enough to succor the flying fugitive  
—will it, we say, be believed that the defenders of  
this bill have publicly secured the sanction of some of  
the most eminent theologians of America, Leonard  
Wood and Moses Stuart, men of European cele-  
brity in theological literature? Both of them ap-  
proved of the infamous course pursued by this  
arch-apostate, Daniel Webster, in his treachery  
to the cause of liberty, by appending their names  
to a congratulatory address, and thus en-  
dorsed his declaration that the North was under a  
moral obligation to the South to send back the es-  
caped of the oppressed, as if, forsooth, there could  
in any circumstance be a moral obligation for an in-  
humanity to support a system which consigns to a  
felon's doom the man who is humane enough to succor  
the flying fugitive.

Let us not be supposed to discourage the native  
abolitionists, or to excuse the obstinacy with which  
the slave-owners have stuck to the letter of their  
bond. That obstinacy we believe to be far more  
culpable and perilous than the intemperance and of-  
fensive zeal of the Northern abolitionists. Slavery  
is but a question of time. It is scarcely possible  
to conceive that a hundred years hence there will  
be one slave in the United States, not to say in the  
whole continent of America. The slave-owners see  
the ramparts rising, the trenches opened, the com-  
munications established, and the blockade closing  
round them that is one day to reduce them to un-  
conditional surrender. We doubt not for an instant  
that our children, or our children's children, will  
see the chains drop in one hour from the limbs  
of three million slaves. The Fugitive Slave Bill  
is only a last legislative effort against that which  
is more powerful than legislatures—the progress of  
human affairs. Every acre added to the territory  
of the Union, and every free-born child added to its  
population, every immigrant that lands on its shores,  
is another weight in the scale of abolition. Then  
why, except because they are demoralized and doomed,  
do the slave-owners take no steps whatever to pre-  
pare for that great day of reckoning? Why do they  
assume the perpetual stability of an institution at  
variance with the whole tenor and course of modern  
civilization? We do not hesitate to advise them  
to set their house in order. If it is harder to do so  
now than it was seventy years back, instead of be-  
ing easier, as the great statesmen of that day hoped  
and expected—if time has hitherto aggravated rather  
than removed the enormous difficulties of the  
question, what will be the case thirty years hence,  
when, perhaps, there must and will be abolition,  
without either the slave or his master being pre-  
pared for the change? The choice lies between grad-  
ual and sudden abolition, and it is for the slave  
States themselves to choose which of these two they  
will have—for one they must.

From the Washington Union.

### CAN THEIR BONES REST IN PEACE?

Among other impudent efforts to clutch at every  
possible topic of a popular character, we find the  
following in the 'Liberator,' of Boston, the organ of  
Garrison and his abolition gang:

SPIRIT OF THE PILGRIMS, AWAKE! We call the  
special attention of all, who revere the memories of  
our fathers, to the celebration of the anniversary  
of their landing on Plymouth rock, which is to be  
held in the Green Church at Plymouth, on Satur-  
day and Sunday next, by the Old Colony Anti-Slavery  
Society, commencing at 10 A. M., on Saturday,  
and continuing at 10 A. M., on Sunday. It will be  
seen that tickets for the excursion can be procured  
at the regular depot at half price, the trains leaving  
Boston on Saturday at 8 1/2 o'clock, A. M., and  
at 1-2 P. M. With such eloquent orators for the  
occasion as George Thompson, Wendell Phillips, and  
Frederick Douglass, in addition to the claims of the  
day and the nagging desire of religious freedom in  
this country, it is needless to urge the large attend-  
ance. LET IT BE A MEMORABLE OCCASION IN THE  
CELEBRATION OF FATHERS' DAY.

So it would seem that the graves of the Pilgrim  
fathers are to be desecrated by the orgies of these  
fanatical incendiaries. Is there no one in New  
England to keep alive the memories and the spirit of  
the illustrious founders of the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts but an intermeddling Scotchman,

raw from the 'land of cakes,' and a runaway negro,  
and their degenerate abettors? We should like to  
know who of Thompson's or Douglass's ancestors  
landed or he buried there. At the memorable era  
when a spot became holy ground in the estimation  
of the honest New Englanders, the forefathers of  
the first of these wretched beings engaged in steal-  
ing 'black cattle' from the lowlands, and those of  
the others in stealing their neighbors to sell to Guine-  
men, or to sell in the jungles of Africa. And now  
these are the exalted prophets and sons of prophets  
put forth by the abolitionists to honor the degradation  
of the Pilgrim fathers! Shame on their sons who  
witness or tolerate such a disgraceful proceeding!

But prejudice has grown apace; it has stolen  
along with woolen feet, and has struck at last with  
iron hands. Formerly slavery was barely tolerated;  
now it is a venerated thing, a pattern institution; and  
the slaveholder, overworking the man, it is now his  
delight to humiliate and execute his behest. The  
American people have prostrated the manhood of  
their nation, by constituting themselves the watch-  
dogs of the planter. It is vain for political trick-  
sters to shut from the eyes of the world the infamy  
of the position of Daniel Webster. Talk not to us of  
a law demanding the degradation! There is a law  
enacted, which spurs it—that law written by the  
finger of the Creator in the human soul. Respect  
for the laws of earthly authority is good when that  
authority is; but when human laws are in opposition  
to the divine, then the path of duty is plain. Let us  
then endeavor to sustain this sentiment in opposi-  
tion to the obvious hindrances to moral authority,  
with reference to the fact of whether that author-  
ity is legitimate; and let us remember, that as all  
power is of God, so, whatever power is not a  
copy of the Divine will is a power unworthy of be-  
ing obeyed; and holding such principles, let it be  
known that such are our principles. Let us hold  
them in the face of tyrant magistrates wherever we  
meet them. Let our masters know they may speak  
as they please. Society, embodied and dis-  
severed attachment to our principles, cheer on and  
sustain our transatlantic friends, who are at this time  
bearing one of the fiercest and most despot tyrants  
that the strife of party or the war of principles  
ever ushered into existence.

We say to our brethren—  
'Up, then, in Freedom's manly part,  
From gray beard to fiery youth,  
And the nation's naked heart  
Scatter the living coils of truth.'

These are stirring times that are passing over us—  
times fitted to test our faith. The truth-throes of a  
new epoch are upon us. Society, embodied and dis-  
severed, seems like some weather-worn edifice, on  
which the storms of time have done their work, and  
over whose ruins these storms are ready to sing the  
death-dirge. Nevertheless, amid the clouds and  
darkness which now surround us, as glorious a  
dawn of truth may arise as ever the sun in his ze-  
lous career has seen. Mr. Brown concluded amid  
loud and continuing cheering.

Mr. John Stevenson having seconded the motion,  
it was unanimously carried.

Mr. James Rattray then moved the third resolu-  
tion, protesting against the policy which deprived so  
large a portion of the people of this country of the  
elective franchise, which, being seconded by Mr.  
Andrew Paton, was also carried.

Mr. James Hoey, after a few pertinent obser-  
vations, read the following

### APPEAL AND REMONSTRANCE

To the Working Men of America who are invested with  
the Elective Franchise.

FELLOW WORKMEN—We, the working and un-  
enfranchised classes of Great Britain, have resolved  
at a public meeting, held on the 6th November,  
1850, to address you, our brethren in the United  
States, relative to your connection with the institu-  
tion of slavery in your country, and more especially  
relative to the recent passing of the Fugitive  
Slave Bill by Congress. As regards the propriety  
of the course we thus adopt, let us state in substance  
our claims upon you, the industrious portion of  
the Western Republic, as such as enable us to throw  
aside all reserve in giving a full and open expres-  
sion of our thoughts and feelings, and we feel our-  
selves perfectly free in using the language of ex-  
postulation, remonstrance, and likewise the prop-  
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## The Liberator.

No Union with Slaveholders!

BOSTON, JAN. 10, 1851.

## ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS A. S. SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society will be held at the TRINITY TEMPLE in Boston, on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 22d, and will probably continue in session the two succeeding days. We need not remind our friends of the importance, at this juncture, of a large attendance, and a full representation of every part of the State. Beyond a doubt this will be what the times so much require, a thronged and enthusiastic meeting. And we cordially invite our friends, beyond the limits of Massachusetts, to be with us on this approaching anniversary. Let every true soldier in the warfare against Slavery, every one who is determined to have no share in upholding the accursed thing, all who fear God and his laws more than slavery and its mean and cowardly enactments, come to the annual meeting of the old pioneer Society. Again let the voice of Massachusetts and New England go forth in tones that shall startle the aggressor, and make him let the oppressed go free.

In addition to the long-tried and eloquent advocacy of our cause, which we have been wont to see and hear at our annual gathering, we have great pleasure in saying that our faithful and noble friend, GEORGE THOMPSON of England, is expected to be with us. The Annual Report is expected to be printed and ready for distribution in the course of the meeting.

FRANCIS JACKSON, President.

EDMUND QUINCY, Secretary.

## THE LIBERATOR—ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

THE LIBERATOR having completed the TWENTIETH YEAR of its existence, and entered upon its third decade, many of its friends and patrons have expressed a desire to join with the friends of the Anti-Slavery cause generally, as far as practicable, in celebrating the event in a suitable manner. On consultation, it has been decided to hold a SOIREE, for this special object, in COBBETT'S HALL, Boston, on FRIDAY evening, January 24th, at the close of the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society on the afternoon of that day—thus giving an opportunity to the abolitionists, in various parts of the Commonwealth, attending the anniversary, to be present.

It cannot fail to be an occasion of thrilling interest. In addition to a substantial and elegant entertainment, served up by Mr. J. B. SMITH, to supply all bodily wants, there will be vocal and instrumental music, and addresses may be expected from GEORGE THOMPSON, WENDELL PHILLIPS, W. L. GARRISON, FREDERICK DOUGLASS, and other friends of emancipation. Tickets, 50 cents each.

As only a limited number can be accommodated, those who desire to be present at this commemorative gathering, and fully purpose doing so, are recommended to make immediate application for tickets to ROBERT F. WALLACE, Anti-Slavery Office, 21 Cornhill. Tickets will be reserved for such as are ordered by mail.

## THE LIBERTY BELL.

To say that this beautiful SOUVENIR OF FREEDOM, for 1851, fully sustains the reputation of its predecessors, is exalted praise. In it are embodied sentiments of the noblest character, principles clear as light and strong as the foundations of the universe, sympathies as warm and pure as ever kindled in the human soul, aspirations as lofty as the throne of Divinity. Its appeals in behalf of suffering humanity, its warnings in behalf of the spirit of prophecy, its reproofs of sin and sinners, (in of the deepest dye, and sinners of the first rank), its bugle-note of freedom, its thunder-bolt launched against the tyranny which is alike the disgrace and curse of our land, are such as the times demand, and worthy of the greatest struggle of the nineteenth century. Where the contributions of such minds as Harriet Martineau, Maria Weston Chapman, Wendell Phillips, Theodore Parker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, James Russell Lowell, William H. Furness, Edmund Quincy, &c., &c., are brought together into one full volume, original, sparkling and vigorous, a rich result may safely be presumed. All that we can now do, however, is to take a rapid glance at the contents of this unique Annual, promising in future numbers of the Liberator to make the most liberal selections from its pages.

The essay of that prodigy of the pulpit, for his large humanity, moral courage, and intellectual acumen, William H. Furness, of Philadelphia, from the text, "Let your Light Shine," is truly admirable, and singularly pertinent in these days when "baptized infidels" are scoffing at conscience, and prefiguring priests and politicians are deriding the "higher law," even the law of the living God. Human individuality is not to be merged in the multitude, nor swallowed up by majorities however large, nor released from moral accountability by combinations or compromises. Since the day when the apostle Paul cautioned the solemn declaration, "So, then, every one of us must give an account of himself unto God," there has been no period more loudly calling for the reiteration of this fundamental doctrine than the present. Mr. Furness treats his subject with great discrimination and noble earnestness. What can be better than his introductory sentences?—"Let your light shine. Mark the phrase! Your light—your own—the radiation of your own being; not a reflected light, taught from the prejudices and practices of those about you. The light which we are to give out, so that it may be seen, and God be glorified, must be our own. It must come from our own sense of things, acting with a sole reference to our personal responsibility to God, and unobscured by the dictation or the entreaties of other men. If it is not of this character, it is not the light that guides men and glorifies God." He admits that there is a liability to mistake self-will, a fool-hardy obstinacy, some contemptible whim, for a sacred conviction, the voice of some low, earth-born passion, for the still, small voice of Heaven; nevertheless, "every sensible and grown-up man will take good care how he falls into this predicament," and endeavor to make sure that he has the warrant of an enlightened conscience for the ground on which he is standing. Our individual duty is plain. "We must let our highest convictions shine forth, although others, either ignorantly or wilfully, misrepresent our light, and it seems to be neutralized. Even though, by acting from our own sense of duty, we excite opposition, and thick clouds of passion, thunder-charged, steam up all around, we must still persevere and shine on." Amidst all the fury and tumult of human passions, raging like wild beasts let loose, still our cry is, "Shine! Shine! Let your light shine! Once fully persuaded that it is a pure sense of truth, let it blaze as a consuming fire, with no flickering of hesitation, no dimness of fear! It excites opposition, furious, bloody-minded. Well, let it, and then the opposition will show itself in its true colors. It will be seen what it is, without disguise, and in all its falsehood." But our readers shall have the entire essay, ere long.

Another impressive paper in this volume is entitled, "Pictures of Southern Life, for the Drawing Rooms of American Women;" by Caroline W. Foley, Dall. Mrs. Dall is a gifted, amiable and earnest woman, a felicitous and graceful writer, cautious yet not timid, plain-spoken yet not coarse, faithful yet just and charitable. After reciting a number of thrilling incidents of horror connected with the slave system

Mr. Stewart, of Morgan, had been a member of a committee in the legislature on this subject, and remembered that the examination made at that time on the subject of free negroes fully confirmed all that had been said by the member from Pittsylvania.

Mr. Straughan offered the following as an amendment to the amendment of Mr. Neeson:

"Add to purchase territory from the Federal Government, in latitude South of 25 degrees, upon which to locate such free negroes and mulattoes as may be expelled from this Commonwealth."

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Neeson's amendment was also rejected.

Mr. Botts then modified his substitute, explained the difference between it and the resolution of the member from Pittsylvania, expressed his dissatisfaction at a disapprobation of the resolution. In his judgment, it proposed to interfere with the vested rights of such of these free negroes as had obtained permission to remain in the Commonwealth. He was desirous of acting upon this subject, but not with cruelty or harshness. Here might be a man who, at the time of his death, might emancipate his slaves; they might be old and infirm, and yet you proposed to separate them from their families and friends, without providing means for their transportation.

Mr. Whittle appealed to him to withdraw it. He feared it would embarrass his proposition.

Mr. Strother urged the adoption of the resolution of the member from Pittsylvania. He was prepared, whenever the proper time arrived, to see a law passed in obedience to its provisions. These free negroes were not citizens; they had none of the rights of citizens; they were not an integral portion of our community; and their presence among us induces a disease which is eating into the very bowels of the body politic.

Mr. Scheffey was opposed to the bad precedent which would be established by creating these special committees, and hoped they would not be raised.

Mr. Hopkins, of W., moved to amend the resolution so as to make it one of reference to the "Legislative Committee."

Mr. Ferguson offered a resolution creating a Committee on Slaves, the Free Negroes and Mulattoes of the Commonwealth. (Afterwards withdrawn.)

Mr. Botts did not desire to embarrass the proposition of any member, nor to stifle inquiry. He withdrew his amendment, and would offer it separately.

Mr. Taylor demanded the yeas and nays upon the motion of Mr. Hopkins, of W., to strike out a portion of the first line of the resolution of reference to the Legislative Committee. The vote stood as follows: Yeas 100, Nays 20.

The amendment of Mr. Hopkins, of W., was adopted.

Mr. Whittle's resolution, as amended, was then adopted.

Mr. Botts's resolution was adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing, that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall first make provision for his or their removal beyond the limits of the United States, or for the support of such as may be authorized by the Legislature to remain within the Commonwealth.

Mr. Lyon's resolution was adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting in the Constitution, a clause providing that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this Commonwealth, so far as it does emancipate such slave or slaves.

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let of self-interest, we conceive that any community within the Union who are unable to discern the representative powers of Frederick Douglass are wholly at fault. In all earnestness, our opinion of him is, that he would do honor to the most gifted legislative assembly in the world; and from such a statement you may possibly draw your own conclusions as to what interest he would be likely to take in the cause of the oppressed. He is not one who would be content to sit in our power to honor such an one with our suffrages either in matters municipal or parliamentary. Perhaps it is not known to you, that your prejudices have left you much behind nations with less pretensions to free government. In the Jamaica House of Assembly there are no less than six men of color, invested with all that dignity belonging to representation; some of whom are acknowledged to be more profound in the abstract sciences than any of their countrymen within or without the precincts of Legislative Assemblies. We call upon you, then, by these considerations, and by others even of higher import, to wipe away that foul stain upon your national character, which unchristian prejudice has engendered, to the irreparable injury of the colored people, and to the dishonor of the Republic. He has chosen to create according to the inflexible law of his own universe. Let nothing stand in the way of latest aspirations which may exist, for crowning all men with the dignity and privileges of manhood. The policy or religion which would require your acquiescence in the impious and base pretensions of making a man a mere commodity is a "earthly, sensual, devilish." That church has no claims upon your reverence which would parcel out pews to its colored members. Throwing up a partition wall in the sanctuary, whereby the house may be divided against itself, is not more ludicrous than wicked and detestable even to the last degree.

A slaveholding ministry, whose chief profession is to "preach liberty to the captive, and the opening of the prison doors to them that are bound," is one of the most sickening spectacles the world can witness. Certain of your most eminent theologians we find are defending the Fugitive Slave Bill in all its atrocity, and in the plenitude of their wisdom "search the scriptures for a commission to the man of blood." The character of such men is most aptly described in the very same book on which their pretensions are founded. They "sell the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes." To give the red-handed slave-hunter a mandate from Abraham, from Moses, or from Paul, is perhaps the most miserable subterfuge that can be devised to sustain the cause. We are sure, has never given one single attestation in favor of slavery, far less such a document as the Fugitive Slave Bill. And as to the Mosaic economy, it was characterised by the Apostle as a system of "weak and beggarly elements, which he and his fathers were unable to bear." May we not demand that theological slaveholders carry out their own principles, and take up the cross which they have laid upon the backs of the poor and the other free woman. It would not be more preposterous in Moses Stuart, or Leonard Woods, to have handed a piece to share their love with some of the free States, than it is for them to justify the enslavement of their own Christian brethren by an appeal to the example of Abraham.

But to have done with such heartless ecclesiastics, we turn to you, the people of this land, who share with us and others in all the labors that are done under the sun. We call upon you, by action, to make the slave-catchers bill a dead letter in your midst. And as you value your own civil and religious liberty, we entreat that you be no longer a barrier in the progress of the noble and just cause of the oppressed. From this time henceforth, let the nations of the earth have an example of fortitude and virtue, by your increasing and heroic endeavors to remodel the Constitution of society in the land of the pilgrim fathers. In the name of every thing that is worthy to be held in reverence, we conjure you to go forward, "although the world should despise you," and do the work of the Lord. And that you may in all things approve yourselves worthy to be remembered by coming generations, is the sincere and fervent desire of your brethren in labor.

We are, in the name of the workmen of Glasgow, (Signed)

MATHEW CULLEN, Chairman.

JAMES HOYT, Secretary. (And others.)

Mr. Hoyt concluded by moving that the Appeal be adopted and circulated as extensively as possible in this country, and that it be reprinted in at least four newspapers in America, the Liberator, the North Star, Anti-Slavery Standard, and New York Tribune, and in as many more as could be obtained.

Mr. William Smeal, in seconding the motion, paid a just compliment to the working classes, as having always exhibited by far the largest number of signatures to the anti-slavery petitions sent from this city. He expected the Fugitive Slave Bill would be the death of American Slavery. "And O, with my soul," exclaimed the good man, "the sooner it is dead and buried, the better!"

Mr. Cortoy moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

From the Fifehead (Kirkcaldy) Advertiser, Dec. 7.

## AMERICAN SLAVE LAWS.

A crowded meeting was held in Cowan Street Chapel on the evening of Wednesday last—the Rev. Mr. Robbie in the Chair, to hear Mr. Edmund on American slavery. Along with copious and painfully interesting details of the treatment of the unfortunate slaves, Mr. E. entertained the meeting with a humorous account of his expulsion from South Carolina. He had been employed as a teacher by a number of planters, but instead of confining his attention to their children, he devoted a portion of his spare time to the instruction of the poor slaves. This was an unpardonable offence—the most Christian of the planters being opposed to their being taught to read and write, as it emboldened them to write their own names, and facilitated their escape. Not desisting from his attempts, some dozen men in masks entered his school, put a rope round his neck and after dragging him to a distance, had him tarred and feathered, and ordered him to depart out of the State, on pain of being shot. Ever since he has been taking a righteous revenge, by advocating the cause of the slaves in the Free States and in Britain. At the conclusion of his address.

The Rev. Mr. Bain read resolutions, (for which see advertisement), expressive of the inquiry of holding property in man, and the new Fugitive Slave Bill, as a cruel aggravation of the evils of the accursed system, and offensive to the feelings of civilized nations. He continued: "I should deem it an insult to your understandings to dwell on the manifold of the negro, though I am anxious to say it is considered by not a few in the land of bondage, who consider him as belonging to a different and inferior species. I question if they really believe in any inferiority, except such as arises from his unprivileged and degraded condition; but let his abilities be ever so despicable, this can be no good reason for oppressing and sinking him still lower. We have seen some specimens of these inferior beings, and in the person of Dr. Pennington, the most eloquent of men, a very Apollo, whose attainments have been recognized and honored by a German University; and another in Frederick Douglass, who possessed one of the clearest and most logical heads, and one of the noblest hearts ever found combined in the same individual. Inferior, therefore, I trust, by every intellectual and moral excellence, these men should be the masters, and the inhuman monsters who would degrade them, ought to be their slaves. (Cheers.)

As regards the other part of the resolution, the moment you concede property in man, you recognize it as right to be made yourself a slave, and give your sanction to the whole of that horrible system, which is written in letters of blood, from the original capture on the shores of benighted Africa, through all the horrors of the middle passage, and the continued establishment of the abomination in the land of liberty and equality. Great as were the evils in the West Indies, they are increased in the United States. In law and practice, the slave is denied every right, individual and social, belonging to humanity; he is treated as a mere beast of burden, bought and sold in the market, and the sacred ties of husband and wife, parent and child, no more accounted than if they did not exist. The man you have been hearing is a living proof of its being counted a heinous crime to teach a slave to read the word of God! But the indignities he suffered for so doing are the greatest honor he will ever receive on earth, higher far than wounds received in battles of nations, or any wealth that prince has ever bought on the conqueror's barge. (Cheers.)

If we in this country are but duly impressed with the wrongs and miseries which are suffered by the poor slaves, from the shores of the Atlantic to the western boundary of Missouri, and from Virginia and Maryland on the North, to the confines of Mexico on the South, we shall never lose an opportunity to ring the anarchy in the ears of every Ameri-

can meet. This Fugitive Slave Bill is one of the most deliberate acts of wickedness ever perpetrated on the surface of the globe; it is well characterized as a new and cruel aggravation of the system; for, much as we condemn the detention of our fellow-creatures in slavery, we condemn as much more their recapture by an *ex post facto* law, after having been settled for years as quiet and industrious citizens in the free States of the Union. To dispose of a man's person and liberty by summary process, on the simple affidavit of any mercenary ruffian who may be found sufficiently destitute of principle to undertake the diabolical mission, is a piece of jurisprudence which I fervently hope will never travel beyond the statute-book of the Model Republic.

This law was passed by way of compromise between Northern and Southern interests on the occasion of admitting New Mexico and California to the Union. What a pity California ever consented to be admitted at such a price! Her freedom and property were simply guaranteed by her position, and climate, and vast mineral wealth, independently of any act of Congress; no power on earth could have introduced slavery there; and she was too much coveted not to obtain any terms she pleased. I feel persuaded, however, that they have oversteered the mark; they have drawn too largely on the indulgence of the nation, and they have made themselves believe that Christian men will sit tamely by, and see their friends and neighbors torn from their happy homes, and consigned afresh to all the horrors of slavery. The evil must work its own cure, though it may be through much suffering, perhaps even blood. No American, having a spark of patriotism in his breast, or a particle of respect for the rights of the civilized world, can consent to this bill, which will be erased from the statute-book of his country.

Be it yours to strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of the friends of the oppressed there, by an honest expression of your opinion, an opinion to which it is well known to their honor, they are not indifferent. As regards the authors of this atrocious law, the majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives, I can think of no better tribute for them, than to have their names printed in large capitals, distributed through the civilized world, and handed down to posterity, to be objects of abhorrence and execration till the second coming of the Redeemer. (The Reverend gentleman sat down amidst thunder of applause.)

Mr. D. Low, draper, said—I beg to second the resolutions that have now been proposed. If we had been told that this Fugitive Slave Bill had been passed under the government of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, we should not have been surprised, as it would just be in keeping with the slavery both of mind and body which exists in that country. We are told that the bill has been passed into a law by a majority of the representatives of a country calling itself the freest under heaven, we are utterly at a loss to account for their strange conclusions; as, whether we take our deductions from reason, from humanity, or from Christianity, there appears no truth more self-evident than that, that a man has a perfect right to himself, or, in other words, that he is his own property. It therefore follows, that he who would reduce man to goods and chattels is nothing less than a traitor to reason, to humanity, and to Christianity, and that nation, (call it by what name you will), which makes merchandise of the image of God, and reduces it to a level with beasts and creeping things, is nothing less than a traitor to reason, to humanity, and to Christianity.

Statesmen in America may, by comparisons, strive to justify their positions, and turn a deaf ear to the cries of the oppressed; theologians may, by some far-fetched line of reasoning, endeavor to palliate the system, and cease to remember those who are in bonds—nevertheless, let the friends of progress here as well as elsewhere be good cheer, for truth will eventually triumph! Yes, as surely as to-morrow's sun shall rise to run his appointed course in the heavens, so surely eternal truth shall come from among the clouds of prejudice, of ignorance and error, and shall one day reign triumphant. (Cheers.)

Then man shall recognize his fellow-man, of whatever country, color, creed, or clime, as a brother, and slavery and war, those blackest spots in a world's history, shall remain only as the relics of a barbarous and a bygone age. (Cheers.)

The resolutions were adopted by acclamation, and thanks having been voted to Mr. Edmund for his address, and to Mr. Robbie for his conduct in the chair, the meeting dispersed.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

## IMPORTANT DEBATE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE

EXPULSION OF FREE NEGROES.

On motion of Mr. Whittle, the House took up the following resolution offered by him yesterday: "On his motion, the blank was filled with the word 'seven'."

Resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed to inquire into the expediency of inserting a clause in the Constitution, declaring void all laws now in force, by which slaves may hereafter be emancipated, and their descendants may be permitted to remain within the limits of the Commonwealth; and to restrain the legislative department of the government from passing any law granting permission to any such emancipated slave, or his or her descendants, to remain within the Commonwealth; and to provide that if shall be competent to the legislature to pass laws for the removal of free negroes and mulattoes beyond the limits of this Commonwealth, either with or without the consent of said free negroes and mulattoes.

Mr. Whittle offered some reasons why this resolution should be referred to a special committee. He thought the large number of subjects which had been referred to the legislative committee would tend to write them out of the minds of the people, and its great importance demanded. It was a question which involved the peace of society of our State. It concerned a tribe of people among us, who were potent for evil, and impotent for any good.

Mr. Lyons offered the following amendment, to come in after the word "Commonwealth," which was accepted by Mr. Whittle:—

"And after the lapse of twelve months, no deed or will emancipating slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this State."

Mr. Lyons said, the object of his amendment was not to prevent any man from emancipating, in a proper way, his slaves during his life-time, but to prevent that committee from examining into the fact as to how many slaves during his life-time, at the time of his death seeks to get posthumous reputation by emancipating his slaves, and to save the community from the evil which was inflicted upon it by free negroes. Besides these, these emancipations at the time of death were frequently urged by the enemies of slavery, as an evidence of repentance for having committed the sin of holding slaves, and he desired to put a quietus upon even the suspicion of this being true.

Mr. Byrd desired time to look into this resolution, as it might regulate the vote upon it. He moved to lay it, as amended, on the table. Motion rejected.

Mr. Neeson offered the following amendment:

"Also to report the proper method of defraying the expenses of deporting such free negroes and mulattoes as may be removed under any act of the Legislature."

Mr. Botts regarded this as a very important question—the disposition which was to be made of this class of people. He was little disposed, nor prepared to enter into an argument upon the question. But for the present, for the purpose of testing the sense of the House, he would offer the following as a substitute for the resolution.

[The resolution is inserted below.]

Mr. Hopkins, of W., hoped that the resolution, if adopted, would go to the legislature, and not a special committee. He saw no reason for varying from the ordinary committee.

Mr. Whittle urged that the legislative committee was not properly constituted to give a proper consideration to the question. He deemed it of sufficient importance to be put to rest by a constitutional provision. All he wished was, to give the legislature power to act, if it should become necessary, in this particular. He did not propose, as the member from Marion's amendment indicated, to engrain any system upon the Constitution, but merely to declare a general principle; which was all that ought to be done when a body was going to write the law in this country.

This tribe of people had increased in our State to an alarming extent. They were adverse to feeling, adverse in sentiment, and adverse in interest, to every community in which they are found. They had increased some 47 per cent. in the West, and some seven or eight per cent. in his own district.

Mr. Stewart, of Morgan, had been a member of a committee in the legislature on this subject, and remembered that the examination made at that time on the subject of free negroes fully confirmed all that had been said by the member from Pittsylvania.

Mr. Straughan offered the following as an amendment to the amendment of Mr. Neeson:

"Add to purchase territory from the Federal Government, in latitude South of 25 degrees, upon which to locate such free negroes and mulattoes as may be expelled from this Commonwealth."

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. Neeson's amendment was also rejected.

Mr. Botts then modified his substitute, explained the difference between it and the resolution of the member from Pittsylvania, expressed his dissatisfaction at a disapprobation of the resolution. In his judgment, it proposed to interfere with the vested rights of such of these free negroes as had obtained permission to remain in the Commonwealth. He was desirous of acting upon this subject, but not with cruelty or harshness. Here might be a man who, at the time of his death, might emancipate his slaves; they might be old and infirm, and yet you proposed to separate them from their families and friends, without providing means for their transportation.

Mr. Whittle appealed to him to withdraw it. He feared it would embarrass his proposition.

Mr. Strother urged the adoption of the resolution of the member from Pittsylvania. He was prepared, whenever the proper time arrived, to see a law passed in obedience to its provisions. These free negroes were not citizens; they had none of the rights of citizens; they were not an integral portion of our community; and their presence among us induces a disease which is eating into the very bowels of the body politic.

Mr. Scheffey was opposed to the bad precedent which would be established by creating these special committees, and hoped they would not be raised.

Mr. Hopkins, of W., moved to amend the resolution so as to make it one of reference to the "Legislative Committee."

Mr. Ferguson offered a resolution creating a Committee on Slaves, the Free Negroes and Mulattoes of the Commonwealth. (Afterwards withdrawn.)

Mr. Botts did not desire to embarrass the proposition of any member, nor to stifle inquiry. He withdrew his amendment, and would offer it separately.

Mr. Taylor demanded the yeas and nays upon the motion of Mr. Hopkins, of W., to strike out a portion of the first line of the resolution of reference to the Legislative Committee. The vote stood as follows: Yeas 100, Nays 20.

The amendment of Mr. Hopkins, of W., was adopted.

Mr. Whittle's resolution, as amended, was then adopted.

Mr. Botts's resolution was adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing, that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall first make provision for his or their removal beyond the limits of the United States, or for the support of such as may be authorized by the Legislature to remain within the Commonwealth.

Mr. Lyon's resolution was adopted, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting in the Constitution, a clause providing that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this Commonwealth, so far as it does emancipate such slave or slaves.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting in the Constitution, a clause providing that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this Commonwealth, so far as it does emancipate such slave or slaves.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting in the Constitution, a clause providing that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this Commonwealth, so far as it does emancipate such slave or slaves.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting in the Constitution, a clause providing that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this Commonwealth, so far as it does emancipate such slave or slaves.

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Resolved, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be instructed to inquire into the expediency of inserting in the Constitution, a clause providing that no slave hereafter transported shall be entitled to his or her freedom, unless the person so emancipating such slave or slaves shall be admitted to record in any court in this Commonwealth, so far as it does emancipate







